

### REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application is earnestly solicited.

Claims 250 through 254, 258, 261, 262, 265 through 278, 281, 283 through 285, and 290 through 316 are pending, with Claims 250, 261, 262, 266, 269, 270, 271, 281, 290, 296, 297, 299, 302, 303, 304, 312, and 316 being independent. Claims 250, 261, 262, 266, 269, 270, 271, and 281 have been amended. Claims 290 through 316 have been added.

### RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION

The January 18, 2007 Official Action indicated that Claims 250 through 254, 258, 261, 262, 265 through 278, 281, and 283 through 285, as amended on October 23, 2006 pertained to a non-elected group. This indication is respectfully traversed, and is submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of Claims 250, 261, 262, 266, 269, 270, 271, and 281 so as to reverse the amendments set forth in the October 23, 2006 Preliminary Amendment, as a result of which Claims 250 through 254, 258, 261, 262, 265 through 278, 281, and 283 through 285 are in the form in which they were allowed in the August 22, 2006 Notice of Allowance. Newly-presented Claim 316 restores cancelled allowed Claim 287.

Turning to newly-presented Claims 290 through 315, those claims recite, in the alternative, (a) the features of Claims 250 through 254, 258, 261, 262, 265 through 278, 281, and 283 through 285 as discussed above, and (b) the features of those same claims as amended on October 23, 2006, and thus link those two groups of claims. Accordingly, examination on the merits of all claims, including Claims 290 through 315, is earnestly solicited.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.202

The following table shows how Claims 250 through 254, 258, 261, 262, 265 through 278, 281, 283 through 285, and 290 through 316 have been copied in modified form from Claims 1 through 7, 9, 13, 15, 16, and 18 through 30 of U.S. Patent No. 6,547,187 B2 ("Foster '187"):

TABLE

<b>subject application claims</b>	<b><u>Foster</u> '187 claims</b>
250, 290	1
251, 274, 291, 307	2
252, 275, 292, 308	3
253, 276, 293, 309	4
254, 277, 294, 310	5
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258, 278, 295, 311	13
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261, 296	18

<b>subject application claims</b>	<b><u>Foster</u> '187 claims</b>
262, 281, 297, 312	19
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265, 283, 298, 313	22
266, 299	23
267, 284, 300, 314	24
268, 285, 301, 315	25
269, 302	26
270, 303, 316	27
271, 304	28
272, 305	29
273, 306	30

### CONCLUSION

Applicant has copied the claims from Foster '187 for the purpose of provoking an interference. Support for the copied claims and the identification of a proposed count for the interference will be submitted in a separate Request for Interference which will be filed in due course should the Examiner wish. In the meantime, if the Examiner reaches this case for action prior to receipt of the Request for Interference, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned before acting on the subject application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to the address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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